THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The saloon was renovated at a cost of Rs. 58 thousands. This is a wooden bodied saloon with steel under frame built by Liluah Workshops in 1921 by the then East Indian Railway for use of Chief Operating Superintendent. In view of the historic background that Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore travelled in this coach in 1941 during his last rail journey, the coach has not been condemned. The coach had become uneconomical to be maintained and has been in dis-use for more than a decade.

The saloon has been renovated on the request from Vishwa Bharti to keep it as an exhibit at Bolpur station.

National Mineral development Corporation

786. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 843 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether N.M.D.C. Hyderabad, have not been placing orders of plant spares Proprietory item of Kobe Steel Limited, Japan (KSL), conveyor belts and Tyres directly with manufacturers KSL, Bridgestone Tyre Co., Yokohama Rubber Co. and have been placing them on an intermediary Nissho Iwai Corporation (NIC), who are not the manufacturers and who are further engaging a sub-agent M/s. Meridien Engineering Enterprises, Hyderabad, to secure orders from N.M.D.C.; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof, whether it is a fact that huge amount of Commissions have been paid by Nissho Iwai Corporation, Japan on almost all Orders secured from N.M.D.C. during the last three years to M/s. Meridien Engineering Enterprises, Hyderabad; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Kobe Steel Ltd., M/s. Bridgestone Tyre Co. and M|s. Yokohama Rubber Co. have been sending their quotations to National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) through their trading/authorised agent M/s. Nissho Iwai Corporation, even when tender enquiries were sent to them directly by NMDC. When specifically requested by NMDC to accept order directly, M/s. Kobo Steel Limited advised NMDC to route their order through M/s. Nissho Iwai Corporation.

NMDC is not aware of any subagent employed by M/s. Nissho Iwai Corporation by name M/s. Meridien Engineering Enterprises, Hyderabad.

Steel Cord Converyor Belt

787. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 842 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what were the nature of defects noticed in the conveyor belt supplied by Nissho Iwai Corporation/Yokohama Rubber Co., Japan, and how much money and time was lost to rectify the defects;

(b) whether any performance Guarantee was submitted by Nissho Iwai Corporation|Yokohama Rubber Co. to NMDC in respect of this Order; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that NMDC communicated with Nissho Iwai Corporation at the time the defect was noticed and insisted on the replacement of the Belt, if so, the reasons for which the defected Belt was not got replaced by NMDC from the Supplier;